Vansadhara Project in A.P.

1245. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have given site clearance to Andhra Pradesh Government to go ahead with Vansadhara Project Stage-ll;

(b) whether the project involves construction of barrages over river Vansadhara near Neredi and Orissa State has maintained that this is violation of the bilateral agreement between the two States;

(c) whether the Centre has taken the Orissa Government into confidence before granting clearance for the above project; and

(d) if not, what is the action plan of the Centre to redress this issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) The Ministry of Environment & Forests has granted site clearance for the Vansadhara project Phase-ll of stage-ii on 10th January, 2006 for survey & investigation by the Government of Andhra Pradesh.

(b) According to the application for site clearance submitted by the Government of Andhra Pradesh for the above project, the proposal for the construction of a barrage at Neradi has been dropped to avoid submergence of land in Orissa State.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise, in view of reply to part (b) above.

Freehold of L.P.G.

†1246. SHRI HARISH RAW AT: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that forests of hilly regions of the country, including Uttaranchal State, are under constant heavy pressure due to use of wood as firewood;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.